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A play of love,



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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

Date of the Earliest Known Editions, 1533-4

[St. John's College and Magdalene College Libraries, Cambridge]

Reproduced in Facsimile, 1909

Play of Love

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

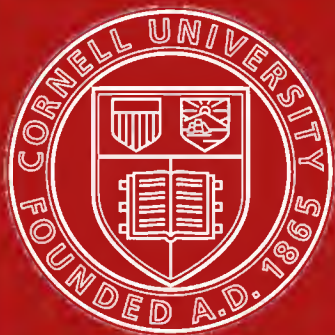
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A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

"A Play of Love" completes the list of interludes known to be written by, and also those attributed to, John Heywood. All are included in "The Tudor Facsimile Texts." When Hazlitt compiled his "Bibliography of Old English Literature," only one copy of this play was scheduled as extant. It was, moreover, imperfect; and of a later edition than the present one, having been printed by Waley between 1547-58. Since then earlier impressions, printed in 1533 and 1534 by the brother-in-law of the author, Wm. Rastell, have been discovered. Of these, two copies, one of each date, are at present known.

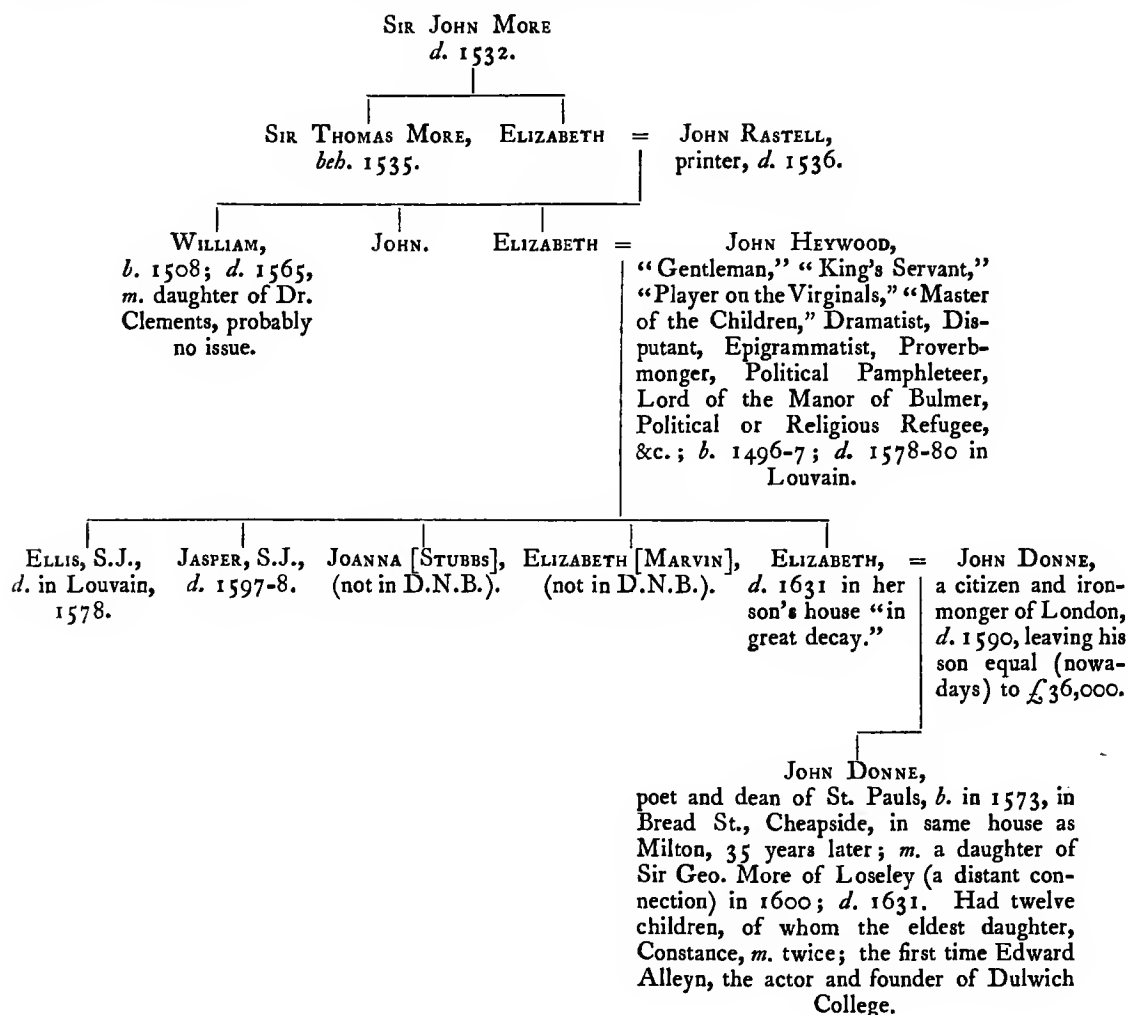
I am again indebted to the courtesy of the Pepysian Library authorities at Magdalene College, Cambridge, for permission to reproduce their unique example of this early interlude.

Pasted in the Magdalene original on A. i. verso (back of title-page) is a portrait engraving of Samuel Pepys: otherwise the page is blank. As one of the special features of this series is to show originals as thoroughly as may be as they actually exist to-day, the portrait is retained. In truth, as we are indebted to the jovial secretary to the Admiralty and the president of the Royal Society of his day for a uniquely dated copy of "A Play of Love," it is not unfitting that his industry and taste as a collector, and his consequent connection with the early and later developments of English literature, indirect though this be, should be thus perpetuated.

Mr. R. B. Fleming, contrasting this facsimile with the original copy, says that "taking the book generally the result is very good; the only real 'fault' is the blurred patches, and these are trifling in any page. There is a stain on the lower half of all pages, most pronounced on the outside edges; this occurs all through the book." Particular criticism is as follows:—

- (1) *Title-page, this is much discoloured, specially the edges.*
- (2) *[A. j.] verso, the portrait is a very good reproduction of the original.*
- (3) *B. iij. and [iij.] verso, are somewhat blurred, particularly the latter. The same "fault" occurs on lower half of [C. iij.] verso and [D. iij.] verso.*
- (4) *C. j. and C. ij, verso, [C. iij.] recto and verso, and on E. iij. recto, the type shows through very much in the original, which is very "foxey" in places.*

I have more than once referred to the fresh light recent research has thrown on the career and social status of John Heywood. Hitherto little indeed has been known, though conjecture was rife. Naturally, in the very circumscribed space now at my disposal, I can supply little more than the baldest sketch of some of the lines of recent inquiry; and I must perforce omit all detail, with many points also altogether untouched. I trust what follows will be of interest; and, for the rest, I can only refer to my forthcoming volume on the subject.



Two points I must premise: in the first place when I approached the subject nearly four years ago I was struck by the slavish fashion in which many writers on English literature followed the same track, copying from and quoting one another. This, combined with the utter paucity, apparently, of original research led me, in the second place, to jot down the known facts of Heywood's record. With these as my starting-point I planned the assault and sack of every possible source of additional knowledge of the man, his times, his circle, and his work; whether from documents, associations, chance references, or any

other likely quarry. In this connection Heywood's flight and residence in the Low Countries obviously suggested inquiry abroad. Seeking advice of Professor Bang of Louvain University as to some one competent to undertake such research, I was astonished to be informed that the work had "already been done" in Malines, Louvain, and Antwerp; that the result would be related in "*Englische Studien*"; and that I was welcome to the use of the new material. I am, therefore, indebted to this source for somewhat that follows (Band 38, 2, 234).

The most important discovery is that Heywood's social status was much superior and more assured than is generally supposed. The evidence of actual descent is not yet complete; but, as regards the social standing of his relatives and connections, his known and probable friends and acquaintances, his children and his grandchildren, the Table on page vi is suggestive. I must, however, leave many interesting side-lights unremarked for the time being, with one exception: Heywood and his wife were of sufficient standing and close enough intimates of the Mores to be specially mentioned as informed of the comment of the Emperor Charles on Sir Thomas More's execution.

Other points of particular interest on which new light has been thrown, or in respect to which inquiry is still in progress, relate to his place of birth, his university career (he probably went as early as fourteen—as did Wolsey and Udall; while his grandson, John Donne, went to Oxford when only eleven), his going to Court, his actual position there (it would appear he was musical tutor to the Princess Mary—a fact which explains much—and afterwards was associated with the Princess Elizabeth), the period of his literary activity, his advancement under Queen Mary, the connection between "*The Spider and the Fly*" and the Queen's grant of Bulmer (of which the Duke of Leeds is the present lord of the Manor), the probable date and companions of his flight to the Low Countries in the early days of Elizabeth, Wm. Rastell's will (in which Heywood's children chiefly benefited) and its connection with the family property in England, his children, grandchildren, and other descendants, &c.

I can only find further space to briefly narrate the newly discovered facts concerning his declining years. It was already known that in 1575 (April 8) he wrote to Burghley from Malines ("where I have been despoiled by Spanish and German soldiers of the little I had"), thanking him for ordering his arrears from his land at Romney to be paid to him, and speaking of himself as "an old man of seventy-eight"; also that in a list of refugees (dated Jan. 29, 1576) he is mentioned—"John Heywood, Gent. of Kent" (Egerton Papers, 63-5). This is supplemented by the following extracts from a contemporary manuscript (in French) by Father Droueshout, S. J., entitled "*History of the Society of Jesus at Antwerp.*" I omit for the present all but the most salient facts:

"In 1573 Elizæus [Heywood] S. J., proceeded from England to Antwerp to discuss matters with the magistrate of the city. The General of the Company (Society of Jesus) allowed him to continue to reside in Antwerp, where his knowledge of several languages made him very useful. [D. N. B. says he became spiritual father and preacher in the house at Antwerp.] Elizæus' father then lived at Malines; persecuted for the faith,

he had come from England and settled himself there. *His son, the Jesuit, went to see him and console him. That, however, interfered with his work, and it was for this reason that Father Mercurian, General of the Society [of Jesuits], authorised the fathers in residence at Antwerp to admit to the College, with lodging and separate table, Elizæus' father, 'that worthy old man,' 'your venerable father.'* This admission took place in 1576.

"When the troubles broke out at Antwerp in 1578, the Jesuits decided to send to Cologne 'those of us who would find it most difficult to save themselves by flight. We despatched to begin with John Heywood, the old octogenarian, with one of our number [un de nos religieux] to accompany him and conduct him to that town,' but he was stopped at the gates of the city, and the partisans of Mathias and the States compelled him to return to the College, whence 'none might go out before they were all alike chased out.' [April 1578.]

"The criminal oath, which it was sought to impose on all the religieux (to acknowledge the Pacification of Ghent and to fight against the Spaniards), being refused by the Jesuits, on the day of Pentecost their College was broken into and sacked, all the Fathers being made prisoners, including John and Elizæus [Heywood]. They were conducted together to the Bierhofd gate to be sent by water to Malines. Mathias and [the Prince of] Orange held different views as to violence.

"[The Prince of] Orange sent a courier to Malines so that the magistrates might keep the prisoners outside the gates, and secretly sent sixty horsemen to await them and kill them. The Jesuit prisoners, while on the water, addressed themselves to Mathias, who, desirous of saving them, sent beforehand to the commandant at Lierre to proceed to Malines, with a sufficient escort, to render assistance to the prisoners, and to send a courier to Louvain to Don Juan [the Spanish commander] for him to do the same, to meet the Fathers midway between Malines and Louvain.

"The prisoners arrived at Malines, and were forthwith condemned to be expelled. At half-past six in the evening, a few minutes before their expulsion, the escort arrived from Lierre. They met the Franciscans, also driven out of Antwerp. The escort of Don Juan was at its post, and all triumphantly entered Louvain on the 26th May 1578.

"The two Heywoods were benefactors of the Society [of Jesus]."

The year 1578 probably saw the end of Heywood's earthly pilgrimage, an old man of eighty-one: his son Ellis died the same year, as also did William Roper, his life-long friend. His son, Jasper, survived till 1597-8, whilst Elizabeth Donne lived well into the next century, till 1631, dying only about three months before her celebrated son, the poet and Dean of St. Pauls.

This inquiry once reopened has already proved fruitful of results, and there are many signs that before long the materials for a really satisfactory biography will be available. Here, as I have already insisted, I can but barely refer to a small portion of the new evidence even now to hand, and reiterate that research is proceeding actively in several directions.

JOHN S. FARMER.

Order of the play
ΕΙΣΗΓΕΙΑ

A play of loue,

A newe and a

mery enterlude concerning plea-
sure and payne in loue,
made by Iohn
Heywood.

Thomas . . . Skelton
The players
names.

A man a louer not beloued .
A woman beloued not louyng .
A man a louer and beloued .
The byse nother louer noꝝ beloued.

W

R



The louer not beloued.

I O sye, who so that loketh here for curtesy
And seeth me seme as one pretending none
But as vnthought vpon thus sodenly
Approcheth the myddys amonge you euerychone
And of you all seyth nought to any one.
May thynke me rewe perceyving of what sorte
ye seme to be, and of what statelly po:te.

But I beseeche you in most humble wyse
To omytte dyspleasure and pardon me
My maner is to muse and to deuyse
So that some tyme my selfe may cary me
My selfe knowyth not where, and I asure ye
So hath my selfe done nowe, for our lord wot
where I am, or what ye be, I knowe not.

O: whence I cam, or whyther I shall
All this in maner as vnkowen to me
But eyn as fortune guydeth my fote to sale
So wander I, yet where so euer I be
And whom o: howe many so euer I se
As one person to me is euerychone
So euery place to me but as one

And for that one persone euery place seke I
which one ones founde I fynde of all the rest
Not one myssyng, and in the contrary
That one absent, though that there were here prest
All the creatures lyving most and lest
yet lackyng her I shulde and euer shall
Be as alone syns she to me is all

And alone is she without comparyson
Consernyng the gyftys geyvn by nature
In fauour faynes and po:te as of person
No lyfe beryth the lyke of that creature
No: no tonge can attayne to put in vye
Her to dyscryue, for howe can wo:des expres
That thyng the full wherof no thought can ges.

And as it is thyng inestymable
To make repo:te of her bewty fully
So is my loue towarde her vnable
To be reportyd as who seyth ryghtly

A. li. For my

For my soole scrupce and loue to that lady
Is gyuen vnder such haboundant fashyon
That no tonge therof can make ryght relashyon.

Wherin I suppose this well supposed
Unto you all, that syns she perceyving
As much of my loue as can be dysclofed
Eyn of very ryght in recompensyng
She ought for my loue agayne to be louyng
For what more ryght to graunt when loue loue requireth
Then loue for loue, when loue nought els despyeth

But eyn as farre wurs as otherwyle then so
Stande I in case in maner desperate
No tyme can tyme my sebt to ease my wo
Before none to erely and all tymes els to late
Thus tyme out of tyme mystymeth my rate
For tyme to byyng tyme to hope of any grace
That tyme tymyth no tyme in any tyme o? place.

Wherby tyll tyme haue tyme so farre extyncte
That deith may determyne my lyfe thus dedly
No tyme can I reste alas I am so lyncte
To greues both so greate and also many
That by the same I say and wyl verpfy
Of all paynes the mooste incomparable payne
Is to be a louet not louyd agayne.

The woman belouyd not lo-
uyng entreth.

Belouyd not louyng.

Syn as touchyng those woordes of comparyson
whiche ye haue seyd and wolde seme to verpfe
If it may please you to stande therupon
Hearpyng and answerpyng me paciently
I doubt not by the same incontynently
your selfe to see by woordes that shall ensue
The contrary of your woordes verpfyed for true.

Louet not loued

Fayre lady pleaspyth it you to repayre nere
And in this cause to shewe cause reasonable
wherby cause of refozmacyon may appere
Of reason I muste and wylbe refozmable

Louyd not louyng

well syns ye ppretende to be confymable
To reason, in auoydyng circumstaunce
Wrefely by reason I shall the truthe auancee.

ye be

pe be a louer no whyt loupd agayne
And I am loupd of whom I loue nothyng
Then standyth our question betwene these twayne
Of loupng not loupd, or loupd not loupng
which is the case moſte paynfull in ſufferyng
wherto I ſaye that the moſte payne doth moue
To thoſe beloupd of whome they can not loue

Louer not loupd. Thoſe wordes approued lo, myght make a chaunge
Of myne opinion / but verely
The caſe as ye put it I thynke moze ſtraunge
Then true, for though the beloupd party
Can not loue agayne, yet poſſybly
Can I not thynke, nor I thynke neuer ſhall
That to be loupd can be any payne at all.

Beloupd not loupng. That reaſon perceyvd and receyvd for trouth
From proper comparſon ſholde clere confounde me
Betwene payne & no payne, no ſuch comparſon growth
Then or I can on comparſon grounde me
To proue my caſe paynefull ye haue fyrſt bounde me
To which ſyns ye dyue me by your denyall
Marke what enſueth befoze ferther tryall.

I ſaye I am loupd of a certayne man
whom for no ſewt I can fauour agayne
And that haue I tolde hym ſyns his ſewt began
A thouſand tymes but euery tyme in bayne
For neuer ſeaſeth his tonge to complayne
And euery one tale whiche I neuer can flee
For euery in maner where I am is he.

Nowe if you to here one thyng euery where
Contrary to your appetyte ſholde be led
were it but a mouſe lo ſholde pepe in your ere
Or alway to harpe on a ctuſt of byed
Howe coulde you lyke ſuch harpyng at your hed

Loupng not loupd. Somewhat dyspleaſant it were I not deny
Loupd not loupng. Then ſomewhat paynefull as well ſeyd ſay I

Dyspleaſure and payne be thynges ioyntly anery
For as it is dyspleaſant in payne to be
So it is paynefull in dyspleaſure to be vert
Thus by dyspleaſure in payne ye confeſ me
wherby ſyns ye part of my payne do ſee
In my ferther payne I ſhall nowe declare

A.iii. That

Out of payne, me thynke this consequent
That my payne may well by meane of the length
Compare with your shorter payne of moze strength

Louer not loued.

Maystres if your long payne be no stronger
Then is your longe reason agaynst my shorter payne
ye lacke no lyklyhod to lyue much longer
Then he that wolde stryke of your hed so fayne
yet lest ye wolde note me your wordes to dysdayne
I am content to agree for a season
To graunt and enlarge your latter reason

Amptte by her presens halfe my tyme pleasaunt
And all your tyme as paynefull as in case can be
yet your payne to be most, reason wyl not graunt
And for ensample I put case that ye
Stood in colde water all a day to the kne
And I halfe the same day to myd leg in the fyre
wolde ye chaunge places with me for the dryer

Loued not loupng.
Louer not loued.

May that wolde I not be ye assuered
Forsooth and my payne aboue yours is as yll
As fyre aboue water thus to be endewred
Came my payne but at tymes and yours contynue styll
yet shold myne many weys to whome can skyll
Shewe yours, in comparyson betwene the twayne
Skantly able for a shadowe to my payne

Felt ye but one pang such as I fele many
One pang of dyspayre, or one pang of desyre
One pang of one dyspleasaunt loke of her eye
One pang of one worde of her mouth as in yre
Or in restraynt of her loue which I requyre
One pang of all these felt ones in all your lyfe
Sholde quayle your opinyon and quench all our stryfe

which panges I say admytted short as ye lyst
And all my tyme besyde pleasaunt as ye please
yet coulde not the shortnes the sharpnes so resyst
The percyng of my harte in the lest of all these
But much it ouermacheth all your dysleafe
For no whyt in effecte is your case dyspleasaunt
But to deny a thyng which ye lyst not to graunt

Or to here a fewter by dayly peticyon
In humble maner as wylt can deuyle

Requyre

Requyre a thynge so standyng in condycyon
As no porcyon of all his enterpryse
Without your consent can speede in any wyse
This seint thus attempted neuer so long
Doubt ye no deth tyll your payne be moze strong

Howe syns in this mater betwene vs dysputed
Myne admyttance of your wordes notwithstanding
I haue thus fully your part confuted
What can ye say nowe I come to denyng
Your pynncple, graunted in my foresayng
Which was this, by the ptesens of my lady
I graunted you halfe my tyme spent pleasauntly

Although myne affectyon ledyth me to consent
That her selbe ptesens is my relese onely
yet as in reason appereth all my toymment
Bred by her ptesens and marke this cause why
Before I sawe her I felt no malydy
And syns I sawe her I neuer was fre
From twayne the greatest paynes that in loue be

Desyre is the fyrst vpon my fyrst syght
And despayre the nexte vpon my fyrst seint
For vpon her fyrst answere hope was put to flyght
And neuer came syns in place to dyspewt
Howe byngeth then her ptesens to me any frewt
For hopeles and helpeles in flames of desyre
And droppes of despayre I smolder in fyre

These twayne beyng endeles syns they began
And both by the ptesens of her wholly
Begon and contynued, I wonder if ye can
Speke any worde moze, but yelde ymmedyately
For had I no mo paynes but these, yet clerely
A thousande tymes moze is my grefe in these twayne
Then yours in all the case by which ye complayne

Loued not lounyng.

That is as ye say but not as I suppose
Nor as the treuth is, which your selfe myght se
By reasons that I coulde and wolde dysclose
Saying that I see such parcalyte
On your parte, that we shall neuer agre
Unlesse ye wyll admyt some man indyfferent
Indyfferently to heare vs, and so gyue iudgement.

Agred,

Louer not loued. Agred, for though the knowledge of all my payne
Eate my payne no whyt yet shall it declare
Great cause of abasement in you to complayne
In counterfet paynes with my payne to compare
But here is no iudge mete, we must seke elles where
Louyd not loupng. I holde me content the same to condyscende
Please it you to set forth and I shall attend.

Here they go both out and the loucr be-
louyd entreth with a songe.

Loucr belouyd. By comen experyence who can deny
Inpossibyltye for man to shewe
His inward entent, but by sygnes outwardly
As wytyng, speche, or countenaunce, whereby doth growe
Outwarde perceyuyng inwardly to knowe
Of euery secrecy in mans brest wrought
From man vnto man the effecte of eche thought

These thynges well weyd in many thynges shewe nede
In our outwarde sygnes to shewe vs so that playne
Accordyng to our thoughtes/wordes and sygnes procede
For in outwarde sygnes where men are sene to fayne
What credence in man to man may remaine
Mans inward mynde with outward sygnes to fable
May sone be more comen than comendable.

Much are we louers then to be commendyd
For loue his apparence dyssembleth in no wyse
But as the harte feltyth lyke sygnes alway pretendyd
Who fayne in apparence are loues mortall enmyes
As in dyspayr of spede who that can myght deuyse
Or haupng graunt of grace can shewe them as moyners
Such be no louers but eyn very skorners.

The true louers harte that can not obteyne
Is so tormentyd that all the body
Is euermore so compelde to complayne
That soner may the sufferer hyde the fury
Of a feruent feuer, then of that malady
By any power humayne he possyble may
Hyde the lesse payne of a thousande I dare say.

And he who in loupng hath lot to suche lucke.
That loue for loue of his loue be founde
Shalbe of power eyn as easely to plucke
The mone in a momet with a synger to grounde

B. i. As of

As of his ioy to enclose the rebounde
But that the reflexion therof from his harte
To his beholders shall shyne in eche parte

Thus be a louer in ioy o: in care
All though wyl and wylt his estate wolde hyde
yet shall his semblaunce as a dyale declare
Howe the clocke goeth which may be well applyed
In abygement of circumstaunce for a guyed
To leade you in fewe wordes by my byhauour
To knowe me in grace of my ladyes fauour.

For being a louer as I am in dede
And therto dysposyd thus pleasauntly
Is a playne apparence of my such speede
As I in loue coulde wylsh and vndoubtedly
My loue is requyted so louyngly
That in euery thyng that may delyght my mynde.
My wylt can not wylsh it so well as I fynde

which thyng at full consydered, I suppose
That all the whole worlde must agree in one voyce
I being beloued as I nowe dysclose
Of one being chiefe of all the hole choyce
Must haue incomparable cause to reioyce
For the hyst pleasure that man may obtayne
Is to be a louer beloued agayne

Neither louer nor loued entreteth

No louer nor loued.	Nowe god you good eyn mayster woodcock
Louer loued.	Cometh of rudenesse o: lewdenesse that mock
No louer nor loued.	Come wherof it shall ye come of such stock
	That god you good eyn mayster woodcock.
Louer loued.	This losell by lyke hath lost his wylt
No louer nor loued.	May nay mayster woodcock not a whyt
	I haue knowen you for a woodcock o: this
	O: els lyke a woodcock I take you a myr
	But though for a woodcock ye deny the same
	yet shall your wylt wytnes you mete for that name.
Louer loued.	Howe so?
No louer nor loued.	Thus lo.
	I do perceyue by your foymare proces.
	That ye be a louer wherto ye confes
	your selfe beloued in as louyng wyse
	As by wylt and wylt ye can wylsh to deuple

Conclu

Concludyng therein determinately
 That of all pleasures pleasaunt to the body
 The hyest pleasure that man may obtayne
 Is to be a louer beloued agayne
 In which conclusyon before all this flock
 I shall proue you playne as wyse as a woodcock
 Louer loued. And me thynke this woodcock is toind on thy syde
 Contrary to curtsy and reason to vse
 Thus rudely to rayle oꝝ any worde be tryed
 In proue of thy parte, wherby I do refuse
 To answere the same, thou canst not excuse
 Thy folly in this, but if thou wilt say ought
 Assay to say better foꝝ this seying is nought
 No louer noꝝ loued. well syngs it is so that ye be dyscontent
 To be called sole oꝝ further matter be spent
 Wyl ye gyue me leaue to call ye sole anone
 When your selfe percepueth that I haue proued you one
 Louer loued. ye by my soule and wyl take it in good worth
 No louer noꝝ loued. Nowe by my fathers soule then wyl we eyn forth
 That parte rehersted of your seying oꝝ this
 Of all our debate the onely cause is
 Foꝝ where ye afore haue fastly affirmed
 That such as be louers agayne beloued
 Stande in most pleasure that to man may moue
 That tale to be false trueth shal truly proue
 Louer loued. what folke aboue those lyue more pleasauntly
 No louer noꝝ loued. what folke mary eyn such folke as am I
 Louer loued. Beyng no louer what man may ye be
 No louer noꝝ loued. No louer no by god I warraunt ye
 I am no louer in such maner ment
 As doth appere in this purpose present
 Foꝝ as touchyng women go where I shall
 I am at one poynt with women all.
 The smothest the synykest the smallest
 The trestest / the tryrest / the tallest /
 The wysest / the wyplest / the wyldest /
 The merrest / the manerlyest / the myldest /
 The strangest / the strayghtest / the strongest /
 The lustrest / the lest / oꝝ the longest /
 The rashest / the ruddiest / the roundest /
 The sagest / the satowest / the soundest /
 The coyest / the curtest / the coldest /
 The byspest / the bygghtest / the boldest /
 The thankfullest / the thynest / the thyckest /
 The sayntlyest / the sewrest / the syckest /
 Take these with all the reste and of euerychone

So god be my helpe I loue neuer one.
 Louer loued. Then I beſeeche the this one thyng tell me
 How many women thyneſt thou doſt loue the
 No louer noꝝ loued. Syꝝ as I be ſaued by ought I can proue
 I am beloued eyn lyke as I loue
 Louer loued. Then as appereth by thoſe wordes reherſed
 Thou art nother louer noꝝ beloued
 No louer noꝝ loued. Nother louer noꝝ beloued that is euen true
 Louer loued. Syns that is true I merueyll what can enſue
 Foꝝ proue of thy parte in that thou maदेſt auant
 Of both our eſtates to proue thyne moſt pleaunt
 No louer noꝝ loued. My parte foꝝ moſt pleaunt may ſone be geſt
 By my contynuall quyetd reſt
 Louer loued. Beyng no louer who may quyet be?
 No louer noꝝ loued. Nay beyng a louer what man is he
 That is quyet
 Louer loued. Mary I
 No louer noꝝ loued. Mary ye lye
 Louer loued. what paciens my frende ye are to haſty
 If ye wyl patiently marke what I ſhall ſay
 your ſelfe ſhall perceyue me in quyet alway
 No louer noꝝ loued. Say what thou wyl and I therein proteſt
 To beleue no worde thou ſayſt moſt noꝝ leſt
 Louer loued. Than we twayne ſhall talke both in bayne I ſee
 Except our mater awarded may be
 By iudgement of ſome indifferent heret
 No louer noꝝ loued. Mary go thou and be an inquerer
 And if thou canſt byng one any thyng lykly
 He ſhalbe admytted foꝝ my parte quykly
 Louer loued. Nowe by the good god I graunt to agree
 Foꝝ be thou aſſewred it ſcometh me
 That thou ſhuldeſt compare in pleaſure to be
 Lyke me, and ſurely I promyſe the
 One way oꝝ other I wyl ſynde redyes
 No louer noꝝ loued. Synde the beſt and next way thy wyl can ges
 And except your nobſ foꝝ malous do nede ye
 Make byſe returne a ſelyſhyy ſpede ye.

The louer loued goth out.
 No louer noꝝ loued. My merueyll is no more then my care is ſmall
 what knaue this foole ſhall byng beyng not perciall
 And yet be he falſe and a folyſhe knaue to
 So that it be not to much a do
 To byng a daw to here and ſpeke ryght
 I foyle foꝝ no man the worth of a myte
 And ſyns my doubt is ſo ſmall in good ſpede

what

what shulde my studye be moze then my nede
 Tyll tyme I perceyue this woodcock commyng
 My parte hereof shulde pas euyn in mumyng
 Saupng for pastyme syns I consyder
 He beyng a louer and all his mater
 To depende on loue and contrary I
 No louer, by which all such standyng by
 As fauour my parte, may feare me to wepke
 Agaynst the louyng of this louer to spepke
 I shall for your confort declare suche a story
 As shall perfectly plant in your memory
 That I haue knowledge in louers laws
 As depe as some dosyn of those dotyng dawes
 which tolde all ye whose fancies styck nere me
 Shall knowe it causeles in this case to feare me
 For though as I shewe I am no louer now
 No: neuer haue ben yet shall I shewe you
 How that I ones chaunced to take in hande
 To fayne my selfe a louer ye shall vnderstande
 Towarde such a swetyng as by swete sent sauour
 I knowe not the lyke in fashyon and fauour
 And to begyn
 At settyng in
 First was her skyn
 whyt smoth & thyn
 And euery bayne
 So blewe sene playne
 Her golden heare
 To see her weare
 Her wetyng gere
 Alas I fere
 To tell all to you
 I shall vndo you
 Her eye so rollyng
 Ech hart cōtrollyng
 Her nose not long
 No: stode not wryng
 Her synger tyss
 So clene she clippy
 Her rosy lypys
 Her chekes gossypys
 So fayre so ruddy
 It areth studdy
 The hole to tell
 It dyd excell
 It was so made
 B. iii. That

That eyn the shade
 At every glade
 wolde hartes invade
 The paps so small
 And rounde with all
 The wast not myckyll
 But it was tyckyll
 The thygh the knee
 As they wolde be
 But suche a leg
 A louer wolde beg
 To set eye on
 But it is gon
 Then syght of the fore
 Ryft hartes to the rote
 And last of all sent katheryns whele
 was neuer so round, as was her hele
 Asawt her harte and who coulde wynn it
 As for her hele no holde in it
 yet ouer that her beawty was so muche
 In pleasaunt qualytes her graces were such
 For dalyaunt pastaunce pas where she wolde
 No greater dyfference betwene lede and golde
 Then betwene the rest and her, and suche a wyt
 That no wyght I wene myght matche her in it
 If she had not wyt to set wyle men to scole
 Then shall my tale proue me a starke fole
 But in this matter to make you mete to ges
 ye shall vnderstand that I with this maystres
 Iyll late acquaynted and for loue no whyt
 But for my pleasure to approue my wyt
 Howe I coulde loue to this trycker dyslymble
 who in dyslymelyng was perfyt and nymble
 For where or whan she lyst to geue a mock
 She coulde and wolde do it beyonde the nock
 wherin I thought that if I tryled her
 I shulde therby lyke my wyt the better
 And if she chaunfed to trypp or tryle me
 It sholde to learne wyt a good lesson be
 Thus for my past tyme I dyd determyn
 To mock or be mockt of this mockyng berynn
 For which herpresens I dyd fyrst obtayne
 And that obtayned forthwith fell we twayne
 In great acquayntaunce and made as good chere
 As we had ben acquaynted twenty yere
 And I through fayre flatteryng behauour

Semyd

Semed anone so depe in her fauour
That though the tyme then so farre passed was
That tyme requyred vs asonder to pas
yet could I no passport get of my swettyng
Tyll I was full woed for the next dayes metyng
Forrewauns wherof I muste as she bad
Gyue her in gage best iuell I there had
And after mych myrth as our wyttes coulde deuple
we parted and I the nexte moone dyd aryle
In tyme not to tynely suche tyme as I coulde
I alowe no loue where slepe is not alowde
I was o: I entred this ioiney bowd
Deckt very clenly but not very proud
But trym must I be, for slouenly lobeys
Haue ye wot well no place amonge louers
But I thus deckt at all poyntes poynt deuyce
At doze were this trull was I was at a tryce
wherat I knocked her piersens to wyn
wherwith it was opened and I was let yn
And at my fyrste comynng my mynyon semed
Very mery, but anone she mysdemed
That I was not meryly dysposed
And so myght she thynke, for I disclosed
No worde nor loke, but such as shewed as sadly
As I in dede inwardly thought madly
And so must I shewe for louers be in rate
Sometymes mery but most tymes passionate
In geuyng thanks to her of ouer nyght
we set vs downe an heuy couple in syght
And therewithall I fet a sygh such one
As made the forme shake which we both sat on
wherupon she without more wordes spoken
fell in wepyng as her harte shulde haue broken
And I in secret laughyng so hartely
That from myne eyes cam water plenteously
Anone I turned with loke sadly that she
My wepyng as watery as hers myght se
which done these wordes anone to me she spake
Alas dere harte what wyght myght vndertake
To shewe one so sad as you this moynyng
Beyng so mery as you last euenyng
I so farre then the merier for you
And without desert thus farre the sadder now.
The selfe thyng quoth I which made me then gladde
The selfe same is thyng that maketh me nowe sadde
The loue that I owe you is origynale

Grounde

Grounde of my late ioy and present payne all
And by this meane, loue is euermoze lad
Betwene two angels one good and one bad
Hope and drede which two be alway at stryfe
Which one of them both with loue shall rewele most ryfe
And hope that good angell fyrst parte of last nyght
Draue drede that bad angell out of place quyght
Hope sware I sholde strepght haue your loue at ones
And drede this bad angell sware bloud and bones
That if I wan your loue all in one howze
I sholde lose it all agayne in thye o2 fowze
Wherin this good angell hath lost the mastery
And I by this bad angell won this agony
And be ye sewet I stande nowe in such case
That if I lacke your contynued grace
In heuyn/hell/o2 perth / there is not that he
Saue onely god that knoweth what shall come on me
I loue not in rate all the common flock
I am no sayner no2 I can not mock
Wherfoze I beseeche you that your rewarde
May wytnesse that ye do my truthe regarde
Sp2 as touchyng mockyng quoth she I am sewet
ye be to wyse to put that here in bye
For nother gyue I cause why ye so shulde do
No2 nought coulde ye wyne that way wurth an old sho
For who so that mocketh shall surely stur
This olde prouerbe mockum moccabitur
But as for you I thynke my selfe assewed
That very loue hath you hyther alewed
For which quoth she let hope hop by agayne
And baynquysh dzed so that it be in bayne
To dzed o2 to doubt but I in euery thyng
As cause gyueth cause wylbe your owne derlyng
Swete harte quoth I after stozmy colde smertes
warm wordes i warm louers byng louers warm hartes
And so haue your wordes warmed my harte eyn nowe
That dzedles and doubtles now must I loue you
Anone there was I loue you and I loue you
Louely we louers loue eche other
I loue you and I for loue loue you
My louely louyng loued b2other
Loue me, loue the, loue we, loue he, loue she,
Depper loue apparent in no twayne can be
Quyte ouer the eares in lone and felt no ground
Had not swymmyng holpe in loue I had byn d2ound
But I swam by the shoze the bauntage to kepe
To mock

To mock her in loue sempyng to shyn more depe
Thus contynued we day by day
Tyll tyme that a moneth was passed away
In all the which tyme suche awapt she toke
That by no meane I myght ones set one loke
Upon any woman in company
But streyght way she set the synger in the eye
And by that same aptnes in ielousy
I thought sewer she loued me perfectly
And I to shewe my selfe in lyke lounyng
Dyssembled lyke chere in all her lyke lokyng
By this and other lyke thynges then in hande
I gaue her mockes me thought aboue a thousand
Wherby I thought her owne tale lyke a bur
Stack to her owne back mockum moccabitur
And vpon this I fell in deupsyng
To bynge to ende this ydell dysgysyng
Wherupon sodaynly I stole away
And when I had ben absent halfe a day
My harte mysgaue me by god that bought me
That if she myst me where I thought she sought me
She sewer wolde be madde by loue that she ought me
Wherin not loue, but pety so wrought me
That to returne anone I bethought me
And so returned tyll chaunce had brought me
To her chamber doore and hard I knocked
Knock softe quoth one who the same vnlocked
An auncyent wyse woman who was neuer
From this sayd swetyng but about her euer
No other quoth I howe doth my dere darlyng
Deere wretch cryed she euen by thyne absentyng
And without mo wordes the doore to her she shyt
I standyng without halfe out of my wyte
In that this woman sholde dye in my faute
But syng I coulde in there by none assaute
To her chamber wyndolme I gat about
To see at the lest way the cors layd out
And there lokyng in by godes blessed mother
I sawe her naked a bed with an other
And with her bedfelowe laught me to scoyne
As merly as euer she laught befoyne
The which when I saw, and then remembryd
The terryble wordes that mother B rendryd
And also bethought me of euery thyng
Shewed in this woman true loue betokenyng
My selfe to see serued thus prately

C.f. To my

To my selfe I laughed eyn hattely
 with my selfe consydering to haue had lyke spede
 If my selfe had ben a louer in dede.
 But nowe to make som matter wherby
 I may take my leue of my loue honestly
 Swete hart quoth I ye take to much vpon ye
 No more then becomes me knowe thou well quoth she
 But thou hast takyn to much vpon the
 In takyn that thou toke in hande to mock me
 wherin from begynnynge I haue sene the yet
 Lyke as a foole myght haue iettyd in a net
 Beleupng hymselfe saue of hym selfe onely
 To be perceyued of no lyupng body
 But well saw I thynne entent at begynnynge
 was to bestow a mock on me at endynge
 when thou laughedest dyslymulyng a wepyng hart
 Then I with wepyng eyes played eyn the lyke part
 wherwith I brought in moccum moccabitur
 And yet thou beyng a long snowted cur
 Coude no whyt smell that all my meanyng was
 To gyue mock for mock as now is come to pas
 which now thus passed if thy wyt be handsome
 May defende the from mockes in tyme to come
 By clapping fast to thy snowt euery day
 Moccum moccabitur for a nosegay
 wherwith she start vp and shytt her wyndowe to
 which done I had no more to say nor do
 But thynke my selfe of any man elles a foole
 In mockes or wyles to set women to scoole
 But howe to purpose wherfose I began
 All though I were made a sole by this woman
 Concernynge mockynge yet both this tale approue
 That I am well sene in the arte of loue
 for I entendynge no loue but to mock
 yet coude no louer of all the hole flock
 Circumstaunce of loue dysclose more nor better
 Therof I the substantiue beyng no greater
 And by this tale afoze ye all may see
 All though a louer as well loued be
 As loue can deuyse hym for pleasaunt spede
 yet two dyspleasures telously and dyede
 Is myxt with loue wherby loue is a dyynk mete
 To gyue babes for wormes for it dyynkth bytter swete
 And as for this babe our locket in whose hed
 By a frantyk womne his opinton is bred
 After one draught of this medlyn mynystred

In to

In to his bryne by my bryne apopntyd
 Reason shall so temper his opinion
 That he shall see it not worth an onyon
 And if he haue any other thyng to sey
 I haue to conuynse hym euery way
 And syns my parte now doth thus well appere
 Be ye my parteners now all of good chere
 But sylence euery man vpon a payne
 For mayster woodcock is now come agayne.

The louer loued entreth.

Louer loued. The olde seying seyth he that seketh shall fynde
 which after long sekynge true haue I founde
 But for such a fyndynge my selfe to bynde
 To such a sekynge as I was now bounde
 I wolde rather seke to lesse twenty punde
 Howe be it I haue sought so farre to my payne
 That at the last I haue founde and brought twayne

The louer not loued, and loued
 not loupynge entreth.

No louer nor loued. Come they a horse backe

Louer loued. Nay they come a fote

No louer nor loued.

Bynne and yet see I thou blynde balde cote
 That one of those twayne myght ryde if he lyst

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

Howe
 Mary for he ledyth a nag on his his fyst
 Maystres ye ate welcome, and welcome ye be

Loued not loupynge.

No louer nor loued.

Nay welcome be ye, for we were here before ye
 ye haue ben here before me before now
 And now I am here before you
 And now I am here behynde ye
 And now ye be here behynde me
 And now we be here eyn both to gether
 And now be we welcome eyn both hyther
 Syngs now ye fynde me here with curtsy I may
 Byd you welcome hyther as I may say
 But setting this asyde, let vs set a broche
 The mater wherfore ye hyther approche
 wheris I haue hope that ye both wyll be
 Good vnto me, and especyally ye
 For I haue a mynde that euery good face
 Hath euer some pyte of a poore mans case
 Beyng as myne is a mater so ryght
 That a fole may iudge it ryght at fyrst syght

Louer not loued.

Syn ye may well doubt howe my wyll wyll serue
 But my wyll from ryght shall neuer swaue

Loued not louyng.

No: myne, and as ye sew for helpe to me

Lyke sewt haue I to sewe for helpe to ye

For as much neede haue I of helpe as you

No louer no: loued.

I thynke well that dere hart but tell me how

Loued not louyng.

The case is this, ye twayn seme in pleasure

And we twayn in payne which payne doth procure

By comparyson betwene hym and me

As great a conssyct which of vs twayn be

In greatest payne, as is betwene ye twayne

whiche of you twayne in most pleasure doth remayne

wherin we somewhat haue here debated

And both to tell trueth so gredely grated

Vpon affection eche to our owne syde

That in conclusion we must nedes prouyde

Some such as wolde and coulde be indyfferent

And we both to stande vnto that iudgement

wherupon for lacke of a iudge in this place

we sought many places and yet in this case

No man coulde we mete that medyll wyll or can

Tyll tyme that we met with this gentylman

whome in lyke errand for lyke lacke of ayd

was dyuen to desyre our iudgement he sayd

Louer loued

Forsoth it is so I promysyng playne

They twayn betwene vs twayn geuyng iudgemēt playne

we twayn betwene them twayn shuld iudge ryght agayne

No louer no: loued.

That promysse to performe I not dysdayne

For touchyng ryght as I am a ryghteous man

I wyll gyue you as muche ryght as I can

Loued not louyng.

Nothyng but ryght desyre I you among

I wyllnyngly wyll nother gyue no: take w:onge

No louer no: loued.

Ray in my conscyens I thynke by this boke

your conscyens wyll take nothyng that cometh a croke

For as in conscyens what euer ye do

ye nothyng do but as ye wolde be done to

O hope of good ende, o Mary mother

Marystres one of vs may nowe helpe a nother

But sy: I pray you some mater declare

wherby I may knowe in what grefe ye arre

Louer not loued.

I am a louer not loued which playne

Is dayly not dolefull but my dedly payne

No louer no: loued.

A louer not loued haue ye knyght that knot

Louer not loued.

ye forsoth

No louer no: loued.

Forsoth ye be the more sot

Nowe marystres I hartely besech ye

Tell me what maner case your case may be

Loued not louyng.

I am beloued not louyng wherby

I am not in payne but in tormenty

No louer no: loued. Is this your tormentour god turne hym to good
Loued not loupng. May there is another man one me as wood
 As this man on a nother woman is
No louer no: loued. ye thynke them both mad and so do I by ips
 So mot I thynke but who that lyst to marke
 Shall perceyue here a praty peyce of warke
 Let vs fall somewhat in these partes to skannng
 Loung not loued, loued not loupng
 Loued and loupng, not loupng no: loued
 wyl ye see these foure partes well ioynd
 Loung not loued, and loued not loupng
 Those partes can ioyne in no maner rekenng
 Loung and loued, loued no: louer
 These partes in ioyngng in lyke wyse dyffer
 But in that ye loue ye twayne ioynd be
 And beyng not loued ye ioyne with me
 And beyng no louer with me ioyne the
 And beyng beloued with her ioyne ye
 Had I a ioyner with me ioynd ioyntly
 We ioyners shulde ioyne ioynt to ioynt quckly
 For fyrst I wolde parte these partes in fleshes
 And ones departed these parted peses
 Parte and parte with parte I wolde so partlyke parte
 That eche part shulde parte with quyet harte
Louer not loued. Sp: syng it passeth your power that part to play
 Let passe, and let vs partly nowe assay
 To byngne some parte of that purpose to ende
 For which all partyes yet in bayne attende
Loued not loupng. I do desyre the same and that wetwayne
 May fyrst be harde that I may knowe my payne
Louer loued. I graunt for my parte by fayth of my body
 why where the deuyll is this horsen nody
No louer no: loued. I neuer spt in iustyce but euer moze
 I vse to be shynen a lyttell before
 And nowe syng that my confessyon is done
 I wyl depart and come take penaunce sone
 when cōscpens prycketh conscpens must be sercht by god
 In dyschargng of conscpens o: els gods forbod
 which maketh me mete when conscpes must come in place
 To be a iudge in euery comen case
 But who may lyke me his auaunsement auant
 Nowe am I a iudge and neuer was sertiunt
 which ye regarde not much by ought that I see
 By any reuerence that ye do to me
 May yet I prayse women when great men go by
 They crouch to the grounde loke here how they ly

They shall haue a beck by saynt Antony
But alas good maystres I crye you mercy
That you are vnanswered but ye may see
Though two tales at ones by two eares hard may be
yet can not one mouth two tales at ones answer
which maketh you tary but in your mater
Syns ye by hast in haupng ferdest home
wolde fyrst be sped of that for which ye come
I graunt as he graunted your wyll to fulfyll
you twayne to be harde fyrst, begyn when you wyll

Louer not loued. As these twayne vs tweyn now graunt fyrst to byke

Syns twayn to be harde, at ones can not speke
I now desyre your graunt, that I may open
fyrst tale which now is at poynt to be spoken
which I craue no whyt my parte to auaunce
But with the pyth to auoyde circumstaunce

Loued not loupng. Speke what and whan so euer it please you

Uyll reason wyll me, I wyll not dyssease you

Louer not loued. Syns other here is a very weyke brayne

O she hath if any a very weyke payne
For I put case that my loue I her gaue
And that for my loue, her loue I dyd craue
For which though I dayly few day by day
what losse or payne to her if she say nay

No loue no: loued. yes by saynt Mary so the case may stande

That some woman had leuer take in hande
To ryde on your errand on hundred myle
Then to say nay one Vater noster whyle

Louer not loued.

If ye on her parte any payne desyre
which is the more paynefull her payne or myne
your payne is most if she say nay and take it
But if that she say nay and forsake it

No loue no: loued.

Then is her payne a great way the greater

Loued not loupng.

Syns ye alledge this nay in this mater
As though my denyal my selwter to loue
where all or the most payne that to me doth moue
wherin the treuth is a contrary playne
For though to ofte spekyng one thyng be a payne
yet is that one worde the full of my hoppyng
To byng his hoppyng to dyspayre at endyng
Thus is this nay which ye take my most grefe
Though it be paynefull yet my most relese
But my most payne is all an other thyng
which though ye forget or hyde by dyslympling
I partely shewed you, but all I coulde no: can
But maysters to you with payne of this man

That

That payne that I compare is partely this
 I am loued of one whome the treuth is
 I can not loue, and so it is with me
 That from hym in maner I neuer can flet
 And euery one worde in seut of his parte
 Rysps throug myne eares and rons throug my harte
 His gastfull loke so pale that bunneth I
 Dare for myne eares cast towarde hym an eye
 And whan I do that eye my thought presentyth
 Strenght to my hart and thus my payne augmentyth
 One tale so ofte alas and so importune
 His exclamacions somtyme on fortune
 Some tyme on hym selfe some tyme vpon me
 And for that thyng that if my deth sholde be
 Brought strenght in place except I were content
 To graunt the same, yet coulde I not assent
 And he seyrng this yet sealyth not to craue
 what deth coulde be worse then this lyfe that I haue

Louer not loued.

This tale to purpose purporeth no more
 But syght and hearpyng complaynt of his toye
 Is onely the grefe that ye do susteyne
 Alas tender hart syns ye dye in payne
 This payne to perceyue by syght and hearpyng
 Howe coulde you lyeue to knowe our payne by felyng
 Marke well this question and answer as ye can
 A man that is hanged or that mans hangman
 which man of those twayne suffereth most payne

Loued not louyng.

He that is hanged

No loue nor loued.

By the masse it is so playne

Louer not loued.

well sayd for me, for I am the sufferer

And ye the hangman vnderstande as it were

These cases vary in no maner a thyng

Sauyng this serues in this mannes hangyng

Comenly is done agaynst the hangmans wyll

And ye of delyghtfull wyll, pout louer kyll

Loued not louyng.

Of delyghtfull wyll, nay that is not so

As ye shall perfectly perceyue or we go

But of those at whose hangyng haue hangmen by

Howe many haue ye knowen hang wylllyngly

No loue nor loued.

Nay neuer one in his lyfe by lady

Loued not louyng.

In this lo your case from our case doth vary

For ye that loue where loue wyll take no place

Your owne wyll is your owne leder a playne case

And not onely vncompelled without aletwe

But fore agaynst her wyll your seut ye endewe

Howe syns your wyll to loue dyd you procure

And

And with that wyll ye put that loue in vye
And nowe that wyll, by wytt seth loue such payne
As wytty wyll wolde wyll loue to refrayne
And ye by wyll that loue in eche condicion
To extynct, may be your owne phelicion
Except ye be a foole or wolde make me onc
what seyng coud set a good ground to syt on
To make any man thynke your payne thus strong
Makyng your owne salue your owne soye thus long
Louer not loutyd. Maystres much parte of this proces purposed

Is matter of truth truely dysclosed
My wyll without her wyll brought me in loue
which wyll without her wyll doth make me houe
Upon her grace to see what grace wyll proue
But where ye say my wyll may me remoue
As wel from her loue, as wyll brought me to it
That is false my wyll can not wyll to do it
My wyl as farre therin out weyth my power
As a sow of led out weyth a safoyne flowre
Loued not loutyng. your wyl out weyth your power the where is your wylt

Louer loued. I merueyll that euer ye wyll speke it
Say merueyll ye maystres therat no whyt
For as farre as this poynt may stretch in verdyt
I am clerely of this mans opinion

No loue no; loued. And I contrary with this mynion

Louer loued. Then be we come to a demurter in lawe

No loue no; loued. Then be ye come from a woodcock to a daw
And by god it is no small connyng brother
For me to turne one wylde foole to a nother

Louer not loued. Say maysters I hartely pray you both

Banythe contencion tyll ye see howe this goth

I wyll repet and answer her tale forthwith

The pyth for your part wherof pretendyth

A prose for your payne to be more then myne

In that my wyll not onely dyd me enclyne

To the same, but in the same by the same wyll

I wyllyngly wyll to controuue styll

And as wyll brought me and kepeth in this bey

when I wyll ye say, wyll wyll byng me away

Concludyng thereby that if my payne were

As great as yours that I sholde suerly bere

As great and good wyll to flee my loue thus ment

As do ye your lewters presens to absent

Loued not loutyng. This tale sheweth my tale persepued euery dell

Louer not loued. Then for entre to answer it as well

Answer this put case ye as depely nowe

Dyd loue your louer as he doth loue you
 Shulde not that loupng suppose ye redres
 That payne whiche lack of loupng doth posses
 pes
Loned not loupng. Syns loue gryn to hyme ggueth your selfe ease, than
Louer not loued. Except ye loue payne, why loue ye not this man
Loued not loupng. Loue hym nay as I sayd must I strepght chose
 To loue hym or els my hed here to lose
 I knowe well I coude not my lyfe to saue
 with loupng wpll graunt hym my loue to haue
Louer not loued. I thynke ye speke truely for wpll wpll not be
 forced in loue wherfore the same to ye
 Syns this is to you such dyspculte
 why not a thyng as dyspculte to me
 To wpll the let of loue where wpll my loue hath set
 As you to wpll to set loue where wpll is your let
Loued not loupng. well sayd and put case it as harde now be
 for you to wpll to leue her, as for me
 To loue hym, yet haue ye aboue me a meane
 To learne you at length to wpll to leue loue cleane
 which meane many thousandes of louers hath brought
 from ryght feruent loupng to loue ryght nought
 which long and oft approued meane is absens
 wherto when ye wpll ye may haue lycens
 whiche I craue and wyshe and can not obtayne
 for he wpll neuer my presens refrayne
Louer not loued. This is a medsyn lyke as ye wolde wpll me
 for thyng to kewe me the thyng that wolde kyll me
 for presens of her, though I selde whan may haue
 As soote the medsyn that my lyfe doth saue
 her absens can I with as pll wpll wpll
 As I can wpll to leue to loue her styll
 Thus is this wpll brought in insydently
 No ayde in your purpose worth taylor of a shyp
 And as concernyng our pynceypall mater
 All that ye lay may be layd euen a water
 I wonder that shame suffereth you to compare
 with my payne, syns ye are dyuen to declare
 That all your payne is but syght and hearpyng
 Of hym that as I do dyeth in payne felyng
 O payne vpon payne what paynes I sustayne
 No crafte of the deuyll can expresse all my payne
 In this body no lym/loyn/lenow/noz beyne/
 But martteth eche other, and this byayne
 These enemy of all by the inuentpyng
 Myne vnslauery sewe to her dyscontentpyng

My speakyng, my hearyng, my lokyng, my thynkyng
 In syttyng, in standyng, in wakyng, or wyntyng,
 what euer I do, or where euer I go
 My brayne and my shap in all these do me wo
 As for my senses eche one of all fyue
 wondreth as it can to fele it selfe a lyue
 And than hath loue gotten all in one bed
 hym selfe and his scruauntes to lodge in this hed
 Wayne hope, dyspayre, dyede, and audacite,
 Hast, wast, lust without lypkyng or lyberte
 Diligence, humilite, trust, and ielously,
 Desyre, pacient sufferaunce, and constansy,
 These with other in this hed lyke swarmes of bees
 styng in debatynge theyr contrarytees
 The benym wherof from this hed dystylleth
 Downe to this brest and this hart it kylleth
 All tymes in all places of this body
 By this dystemperaunce thus dystempored am I
 Sheueryng in colde and yet in hete I dye
 Downed in moysture parched perment dye

No louer nor loued.

Colde hote moiste dye all in all places at ones
 Mary sye this is an age for the nones
 But or we gyue iudgement I must serch to bew
 whether this eydens be false or trew
 Nay stande still your part shall proue neuer the wars
 So by saynt sauour here is a whot ars
 Let me fele your nose, nay fere not man be bolde
 well though this ars be warme and this nose colde
 yet these twayne by attornei brought in one place
 Are as he seyth colde and whot both in lyke case
 O what payne drought is see how his dry lyppes
 Smake for more moyster of his warme moyst hyppes
 Breath out, these eyes are dull but this nose is quicke
 Here is most moyster, your breath smelleth of lycker

Loued not loupng.

well syng ye haue opened in this tale tellng
 The full of your payne for spede to endyng
 I shall in fewe wordes such one question dysclose
 As if your answer gyue cause to suppose
 The hole of the same to be answered at full
 we nede no iudgement for yelde my selfe I wult
 But case this man loued a woman such one
 who were in his lypkyng the thyng alone
 And that his loue to her were not so myckyll
 But her fancy towarde hym were as lyttyll
 And that she had her selfe so day and nyght
 That selde tyme whan he myght come in her syght

And

And then put case that one to you loue dyd bere
 A woman that other so vgly were
 That eche kys of her mouth called you to gybbes fest
 Or that your fancy abhorred her so at lest
 That her presens were as swete to suppose
 As one shulde present
No louer nor loued. A tode to his nose
Loued not loupng. ye in good fayth, wherto the case is this
 That her spyttfull presens absent neuer is
 Of these two cases if chaunce shulde dyue you
 To chose one, which wolde ye chuse tell trouth now
 what ye study
No louer nor loued. Tary ye be to gredy
Louer not loued. Men be not lyke women alway redy
Loued not loupng. In good soth to tell treuth of these cases twayne
 which case is the wurst is to me vncertayne
 Fyrst case of these twayne I put for your parte
 And by the last case apereth myne owne smarte
 If they proced with this fyrst case of ours
 Then is our mater vndoubtedly yours
 And if iudgement passe with this last case in fyne
 Then is the mater aswredly myne
 Syns by these cases our partes so do seme
 That which is most paynefull your selfe can not deme.
 If ye now weyll all-circumstaunce eschew
 Make this question in these cases our yslew
 And the payne of these men to abscypate
 Set all our other mater as frustrate
Louer not loued. Agreed
Loued not loupng. Then further to abzedge your payne
 Syns this our yslew apereth thus playne
 As folke not doubtyng your consciens nor connyng
 we shall in the same let passe all resonyng
 yeldyng to your iudgement the hole of my parte
Louer not loued. And I lykewyse myne with wyll and good harte
No louer nor loued So lo make you low curtsy to me now
 And streyght I wyll make as lowe curtsy to you
 Nay stande ye nere the vpper ende I pray ye
 For the nether ende is good ynough for me
 your cases which enclude your grete eche whyt
 Shall dwell in this hed
Louer loued. And in myne but yet
 Or that we heretn our iudgement publysh
 I shall desyre you that we twayne may fynlysh
 As farte in our mater towarde iudgement
 As ye haue done in yours to the entent

But

Louer loued.

But my contentacion standeth in such thyng
As I wolde fyrst wyshe if it went by wyspyng
Syr be ye contented euen as ye tell
yet your contentacyon can nother excell
Nor be compared egall to myne estate
For touchyng contentacyon I am in rate
As hely contented to loue as ye se
As ye to forbere loue can wyshe to be
Had I no more to say in this argument
But that I am as well as you content
yet hath my parte nowe good approbacyon
To match with yours euen by contentacyon
But contentacion is not all the thyng
That I for my loue haue in recompencyng
Aboue contentacyon pleasures felyng
Haue I so many, that no wyght lypnyng
Can by any wyt or tonge the same repoyte
O the pleasaunt pleasures in our resoyte
After my byyng from her any whyther
what pleasures haue we in comyng to gyther
Eche tap on the grounde towarde me with her fote
Doth bathe in delyght my very harte rote
Euery twynke of her aluryng eye
Reuyeth my spirites euen thowoutly
Eche woide of her mouth not a preparatyue
But the ryght medycyne of preseruatyue
We be so toconde and ioyfully ioynd
Her loue for my loue so currantly coynd
That all pleasures yerthly the treuth to declare
Are pleasures not able with ours to compare
This mouth in maner receyueth no food
Loue is the fedynyng that doth this body good
And this hed dyspyleth all these eyes wyntyng
Longer then loue doth kepe this harte thynkyng
To dreame on my swete harte, loue is my feader
Loue is my lorde, and loue is my leader
Of all myne affayres in thought, woide, and dede,
Loue is the Christs crosse that must be my spede

No louer nor loued.

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

By this I perceyue wel ye make rekenyng
That loue is a goodly and a good thyng
Loue good what yll in loue canst thou make apere
yes I shal proue this loue at this tyme ment here
In this mans case as yll as is the deupll
And in your case I shal proue loue more euill
what tormenty coude all the deuplles in hell
Deupse to his payne that he doth not tell

D.iii. wha

what payne byngeth that body those deuyls in that hed
 which mynsters alway by loue are led
 He frypeth in fyre he drowneeth in drought
 Eche parte of his body loue hath brought about
 where eche to helpe other shulde be dyligent
 They matter eche other the man to torment
 without stynt of rage his paynes be so sore
 That no fende may torment man in hell more
 And as in your case to proue that loue is
 wurs than the deuyl my meanyng is this
 Loue dystempereth hym by torment in payne
 And loue dystempereth you as farre in ioy playne
 your owne confession declareth that ye
 Eate, drynke, or slepe eyn as lyttell as he
 And he that lacketh any one of those thre
 Be it by ioy or by payne clere ye see
 Deth must be sequell howe euer it be
 And thus are ye both brought by loues induccyon
 By payne or by ioy to lyke poynt of dystruccyon
 which poynt approueth loue in this case past
 Beyond the deuyl in turmentry to haue a cast
 For I trowe ye fynde not that the deuyl can fynde
 To turment man in hell by any pleasaunt mynde
 wherby as I sayd I say of loue styll
 Of the deuyl and loue, loue is the more yll
 And at begynnyng I may say to you
 If god had sene as much as I say now
 Loue had ben Lucyfer and doubt ye no whyt
 But experyens now hath taught god such wyt
 That if ought come at Lucyfer other then good
 To whyp soules on the brych loue shalbe the blood
 And sower he is one that can not lyue long
 For aged folke ye wot well can not be strong
 And an other thyng his phisic you doth ges
 That he is infecte with the blak iawndes
 No fether then ye be infecte with folye
 For in all these wordes no worde can I espye
 Such as for your parte any prose auoucheth
 For prose of my parte, no but it toucheth
 The dysprose of yours for where you alledged
 your parte aboue myne to be compared
 By pleasures in which your dyspleasures are such
 That ye eate, drynke, nor slepe, or at most not much
 In lacke wherof my tale proueth playnly
 Eche parte of your pleasure a turmentry
 wherby your good loue I haue proued so eynll

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

That

That loue is apparauntly woꝝ then the deuyll
 And as touchyng my parte there can aryse
 No maner dyspleasures noꝝ tomentryes
 In that I loue not, noꝝ am not loued
 I moue no dyspleasures noꝝ none to me moued
 But all dyspleasures of loue fro me absent
 By absens wherof I quyetly content
Louer loued. Syꝝ where ye sayd and thynke ye haue sayd wel
 That my ioy by loue shall byyng deth in sequell
 In that by the same in maner I dysdayne
 Fode and slepe, this pꝛouerbe answereth you playne
 Loke not on the meat, but loke on the man
 Howe loke ye on me and say what ye can
No louer noꝝ loued May for a tyme loue may pufte vp a thyng
Louer loued But lackyng fode and slepe deth is the endyng
 well syꝝ tyll such tyme as deth appꝛoue it
 This part of your tale may slepe euery whyt
 And where ye by absent dyspleasure wolde
 Watch with my present pleasure ye seme moꝝe bolde
 Then wyse, for those twayne be farre dyfferent sewer
No louer noꝝ loued. Is not absens of dyspleasure a pleasure
Louer loued. yes in lyke rate as a post is pleased
 which as by no meane it can be dysleasid
 By dyspleasure present so is it trew
 That no pleasure present in it can ensew
 Pleasures oꝝ dyspleasures felyng sensyble
 A post ye knowe well can not fele possyble
 And as a post in this case I take you
 Concernyng the effecte of pleasure in hande now
 For any felyng ye in pleasure indure
 Moꝝe then ye say ye fele in dyspleasure
No louer noꝝ loued. Syꝝ though the effecte of your pleasure present
 Be moꝝe pleasaunt then dyspleasure absent
 yet howe compare ye with myne absent payne
 By present dyspleasures in which ye remaine
Louer loued. My present dyspleasures I knowe none such
No louer noꝝ loued. knowe ye no payne by loue ytell noꝝ much
Louer loued. No.
No louer noꝝ loued. Then shall I shewe such a thyng in this purs
 As shortly shall shewe herein your parte the wurs
 Howe I pray god the deuyll in hell blynde me
 By the masse I haue lefte my boke behynde me
 I beseeche our lord I neuer go hens
 If I wolde not rather haue spent forty pens
 But syns it is thus I must go fetch it
 I wyl not tary, a syꝝ the deuyll stretch it

Louer loued. Farewell dawcock
 No loue no; loued. Farewell woodcock
 Louer loued. He is gone
 Loued not louyng. Gone ye but he wyl come agayne anone
 Louer loued. Say this nyght he wyl no more dyssease you
 Goue iudgement hardely euen whan it please you
 which done syth he is gone my selfe streyght shall
 Ryghtously betwene you goue iudgement fynall
 But lord what a face this fole hath set here
 Tyll shame defaced his fole so clere
 That shame hath shamfully in syght of you all
 with shame dyuen hym hens to his shamefull fall
 wherin all though I nought gayne by wyynyng
 That ought may augment my pleasure in louyng
 yet shall I wyn therby a pleasure to see
 That ye all shall see the mater pas with me
 what though the profyte may lyghtly be lodyn
 It greueth a man to be ouer trodyn
 Say whan I saw that his wyynyng must growe
 By payne pretending in my parte to shewe
 Then wylst I well the nody must cum
 To do as he dyd o; stande and play mum
 No man/no woman/no chylde in this place
 But I durst for iudgement trust in this case
 All doubt of my payne by his profe by any meane
 His ronnyng away hath nowe scrapt out cleane
 therfore goue iudgement and I shall returne
 In place hereby where my dere hart doth sourne
 And after salutation betwene vs had
 Such as is mete to make louers hartes glade
 I shall to reioyce her in my tydynges
 Declare the hole rable of this fooles lesynges

Here the byse cometh in ronnyng sodenly aboute
 the place among the audyens with a hye co-
 pyn tank on his hed full of squybs fyed
 cryeng water.water/fyre fyre/fyre/wa-
 ter / water / fyre / tyll the fyre in the
 squybs be spent.

Louer loued. water and fyre
 No loue no; loued. Say water for fyre I meane
 Louer loued. well thanked be god it is out nowe cleane
 Howe cam it there
 No loue no; loued. By as I was goyng
 To set my boke for which was my departyng
 There chaunced in my way a house hereby

To fyre

To fyre which is burned ppteouſly
But metuelouſly the people do mone
For a woman they ſay a goodly one
A ſoloner whome in this houſe burned is
And ſhoutyng of the people for helpe in this
Made me runne thither to haue done ſome good
And at a wyndowe therof as I ſtood
I thruſt in my hed and eyn at a ſuſh
Fyre flaſht in my face and ſo toke my buſhy

Louer loued. what houſe ?

No louer noꝝ loued. A houſe paynted with red oker

Louer loued. The owner wherof they ſay is a broker

Then byck hart alas why lyeue I this day
My dere harte is dyſtroyd lyfe and welth away

No louer noꝝ loued. what man ſyt downe and be of good chere

Gods body maſter woodcock is gone clere
O maſter woodcock ſay: mot be fall ye
Of ryght maſter woodcock I muſt nowe call ye
Mayſtres ſtande you here afore and rubbe hym
And I wyll ſtande here behynde and dubbe hym
Nay the chylde is a ſlepe ye nede not rock
Mayſter woodcock maſter wood wood woodcock
where folke be fatte within a man muſt knock
Is not this a pang trow ye beyonde the nock
Speke maſter woodcock, ſpeke parot I pray ye
My leman your lady ey wyll ye ſee
My lady your leman one bntertakes
To be ſafe from fyre by ſlypppyng thzough a takes

Louer loued. That worde I harde but yet I ſee her not

No louer noꝝ loued. No moꝝe do I maſter woodcock our loꝝde wot

Louer loued. Unto that houſe where I dyd ſee her laſt

I wyll ſeke to ſee her and if ſhe be paſt
So that to apere there I can not make her
Then wyll I burne after and ouertake her

The louer loued goeth out.

No louer noꝝ loued. Well ye may burne to gyther for all this

And do well ynough for ought that is yet amys
For gods ſake one comne after and baſt hym
It were great ppte the fyre ſhulde waſt hym
For beyng fatte your knowledge muſt recoꝝde
A woodcock well roſt is a dyſhe for a loꝝde
And for a woodcock ye all muſt nowe knowe hym
By mater of recoꝝde that ſo doth ſhewe hym
And breuely to byyng you all out of dowt
All this haue I ſepnes to byyng abowt

C. l. hym

hym selfe to conuynce hym selfe each by acte
As he hath done here in doyng this facte
He taketh moze thought for this one woman nowe
Then coulde I for all in the worlde I make auowe
Which hath so shamefully defaced his parte
That to retorne nother hath he face nor harte
Which sene, whyles he and she lese tyme in kyllyng
Gyue ye with me iudgement a goddes blessing

Louer loued.

The pofe of my sayeng at my fyrst entre
That wretch byngeth now in place in that I leyde
Dyslimblyng mans mynde by apparence, to be
Thyng inconuenient, which thyng as I leyde
Is proued nowe true, howe was I dysmeyd
By his falsc sayng the deth of my darlyng
Whome I thanke god is in helth and cyleth nothyng

No louer nor loued

Syr I beseeche you of all your dysmayng
What other cause can ye ley then your louyng

Louer loued.

My louyng, nay all the cause was your lpyng

No louer nor loued.

What had my lye done if ye had not loued

Louer loued.

What dyd my loue tyll your lye was moued

No louer nor loued.

By these two questions it semeth we may make
Your loue and my lye to parte euently the stake
Loupng and lpyng haue we brought nowe hyther
Louers and lvers to ley both to gyther
But put case my lye of her deth were true
What excuse for your loue coulde then ensue

Louer loued.

If fortune god saue her dyd byng her to it
The faute were in fortune and in loue no whyt

No louer nor loued.

The hole faute in fortune by my lyeth well yt
God sende your fortune better then your wyt

Louer loued.

Well syr at extremyte I can proue
The faute in fortune as much as in loue

No louer nor loued.

Then fortune in lyke case with loue nowe ioyne you
As I with louyng ioyned lpyng euen now
And well they may ioyne all by ought that I se
For eche of all thye I take lyke vanyte
But syng ye confesse that your part of such payne
Cometh halfe by loue, and that it is certayne
That certayne paynes to loued louers do moue
In whiche the faute in nothyng saue onely loue
As dyed and ielousy eche of which with mo
To your estate of loue is a dayly fo
And I clere out of loue declarng such shoke
As in my case no payne to me can grow
I say this consydred hath pyth suffycient
In pofe of my parte to dyue you to iudgement

Ray

Louer loued.

May sytt a fewe wordes, for though I confes
That loue byngeth some payne and your case paynles
By meane of your contented quyetnes
Yet thactuell pleasures that I posses
Are as farre aboue the case that ye profes
As is my payne in your ymagynacyon
Under the pleasures of contentacyon
Thus wode how ye wyll one way or other
If ye wyne one way ye shall lese another
But if ye intende for ende to be bese
Toine with me herein for indifferent prese
A tree ye knowe wel is a thinge that hath life
And such a thinge as neuer feleth payne or strife
But euer quiet and alway contented
And as there can no way be inuenied
To bynge a tree dyspleasure by felinge paine
So no felinge pleasure in it can remayne
A hors is a thinge that hath life also
And he oy felinge felth both welth and wo
By dryuinge or drawinge al day in the mter
Many paynefull toynes hath he in hter
But after al those he hath alway at night
These pleasures folowing to his great delyghe
First fayre washt at a riuer or a weyre
And straight brought to a stabel warme and fayre
Dry rubbyd and chafed from hed to hele
And corpd tyll he be styke as an ele
Then he is litted in maner nose hie
And hey as much as will in his belte
Then prouender hath he otes pese benes or brede
Which feeding in felinge as pleasaunt to his hede
As to a couetous man to beholde
Of his owne westminster hall full of golde
After which feeding he slepeth in quiet rest
Dewring such time as his meat may degest
Al this considred, a hors or a tree
If ye must chole the tone which woulde ye be

No louer nor loued.

When the hors must to labour by our lady

Louer loued.

I had leuer be a tree then a hors I.

No louer nor loued.

But howe when he resteth and sylleth his gorge

Louer loued.

Then wolde I be a hors and no tree by saint George

No louer nor loued.

Louer loued.

But what if he must nedes sticke to the tone

which were then best, by the masse I can name none

The first case is yours and the next is for me

In case lyke a tree I may liken ye

For as a tree hath lyfe within feling

C. ii.

whereby

wherby it felith pleasing not displeasing
 And can not be but contented quietly
 Euen the like case is yours now presently
 And as the hozs feleth paine and not the tree
 Vpkenyfe I haue paine and no paine haue ye
 And as a hozs aboue a tree felty pleasure
 So fele I pleasure aboue you in rate sure
 And as the tre felith nother and the hozs both
 Euen so pleasure and paine betwene vs twaine goeth
 Sins these two cases so indifferently fall
 That your selfe can iudge nother for percciall
 for indifferent ende I thinke this way best
 Of all our reasoning to debarre the rest
 And in these two cases this one question
 To be the issue that we shal ioyne on

No louer nor loued.
 Louer loued.

Be it so

Louer not loued.

Howe are these issues couched so nic
 That both sides I trust shal take ende shortly
 I hope and desire the same and syns we
 were fyrst harde, we both humbly beseeche ye
 That we in like wise maye haue iudgement furth

Louer loued.
 No louer nor loued.

I graunt

Louer loued.

By the masse and I come best or worst
 Though nature force man styfly to encline
 To his owne parte in ech particuler thing!
 yet reason wolde man whan man shal determine
 Other mens partes by indifferent awarding
 Indifferent to be in al his reasoning
 wherfore in this parte cut out of affection
 So that indifferency be direction

No louer nor loued.

Contented with that and by ought I espye
 we may in this mater take ende quickly
 Scan we theyr cases as she did apply them
 That we may perceiue what is ment by them
 He loueth vnloued a goodly one
 She is loued not louinge of an vgly one
 Or in his eye his louer semeth goodly
 And in her eye her lover semeth as vgly
 Her most desyred angels face he can not see
 His most lothely hell houndes face she can not see
 He loueth, she abhorreth wherby presens is
 His life, her deth, wherby I say euen this
 Be his feling paines in euery degre
 As great and as many as he sayth they be
 yet in my iudgement by these cases hath she
 As great and as many feling paines as he

when

Louer loued.

When mater at full is indifferently leyd
As ye in this iugement haue leyd this now
What reason the tyme by me shulde be deleyd
Ye haue spoken my thought wherfoze to you
In peyning your paines my consciens doth allowe
A lust counterpaise and thus your paynes be
I iudged by vs twaine one paine in degre

Louer not loued.

Well sins your consprens dwelth you thus to iudge
I receiue this iudgement without greife or grudge

Loued not louing.

And I in like rate, yelding vnto you twaine
Part y thanks for this your vnderstand paine

Louer not loued.

Howe maisters may it please you to declare
As touching their partes of what minde ye are
With right good will sit, and sure I suppose
Their partes in fewe wordes mate come to pointe well
The two examples which he did disclose
All errours or doubtles do clerly expell
The estate of a tre his estate doth tell
And of the hoys his tale wel vnderstande
Declareth as well his case nowe in hande

For as nothing can please or displease a tre
By any pleasure or displeasur feling
Nor neuer bring a tre discontent to be
So like case to him not loued nor louing
Loue can no way bring pleasing or displeasing
Like women, die women, like women, or swim,
In all be content, for al is one to him

And as a horse hath many painefull soznes
A louer best loued hath paines in like wise
As here hath apered by sondry weys
Which sheweth his case in worst part to rise
But then as the horse feleth pleasure in life
At night in the stable aboue the tre
So feleth he some pleasure as farre aboue ye

In some case he feleth much moze pleasure then he
And in some case he feleth euen as muche lesse
Betwene the moze and the lesse it semeth to me
That betwene their pleasures no choise is to gesse
Wherfoze I giue iudgement in thort processe
Set the one pleasure euen to the tother
Womanly spoken maistres by the roodes mother

No louer nor loued.

Louer not loued.

Who heareth this tale woth in different minde

E.iii.

And

And seeth of these twaine eche one so full bent
To his owne parte that nother in harte can finde
To chaunge pleasures with other must nedes assent
That he in these wordes hath gyuen ryght iudgement
In affirmance wherof I iudge and awarde
Both these pleasures of yours as one in regarde

Louer loued. Wel syns I thinke ye both without corruption
I shall moue no mater of interruption
No louer nor loued. No I but maysters though I say nought in this
May I not thinke my pleasure more than his
Loued not louing. Affeccion vnbrubled may make vs al thynke
That eche of vs hath done other wronge
But where reason taketh place it can not sinke
Syns cause to be percial here is none vs amonge
That one hcd that wolde thinke his owne wit so strong
That on his iudges he myght iudgement deuise
what iudge in so iudging coulde iudge hym wyse
well myne estate ryght wel contenteth me
Louer loued. And I with myne as well content as ye
No louer nor loued.

Louer not loued. So shulde ye both likewise be contented
Eche other to see content in such degree
As on your partes our iugement hath awarded
your neyghbour in pleasure lyke your selfe to be
Gladly to wishe Chyistes precept doth bynde ye
Thus contentacion shulde alway prefer
One man to ioy the pleasure of an other

Louer loued. True and conteneion may be in like case
All though no helth yet helpe and greate relese
In both your paynes for ye hauing such grace
To be contented in sufferance of grese
Shall by contentacion auoide much myschiese
Such as the contrary shall fuerly bying you
Payne to paine as paineful as your paine is now

Thus not we foure but al the wo:ld beside
Knowledg them selfe or other in ioy or payne
Hath nede of contentacion for a gyde
Hauinge ioy or payne content let vs remayne
In ioy or payne of other see we disdain
Be we content welth or woo, and eche for other
Reioyse in the tone and pyte the tother

Louer not loued. Syns such contencion may hardly acorde

In such

In such kynde of loue as here hath ben ment
Let vs seke the loue of that louyng lord
who to suffer passion for loue was content
wherby his louers that loue for loue assent
Shall haue in fyne aboue contentacyon
The felpyng pleasure of eternall saluacyon

which lord of lordes whose ioyfull and blessed byrth
Is now remembred by tyme presentyng
This accustomyd tyme of honest myrth
That lord we beseeche in most humble meanyng
That it may please hym by merciful hearyng
The state of this auldens longe to endure
In myrth, helth, and welth, to graunt his pleasure

A M E N.

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Cum privilegio Regali.

